United Nations A/53/PV.106

General Assembly
Fifty-third Session

Official Records

106th plenary meeting
Thursday, 2 September 1999, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Opertti ..... (Uruguay)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Mangoaela (Lesotho), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 118 *(continued)*

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (A/53/1040 and Add.1)

The Acting President: This morning, I should first like to invite the attention of the General Assembly to document A/53/1040, which contains a letter from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly in which he informs the Assembly that 29 Member States are in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the United Nations within the terms of Article 19 of the Charter.

I should like to remind delegations that, under Article 19 of the Charter,

> "A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years."

Subsequently, in document A/53/1040/Add.1, the Secretary-General informs the President of the General Assembly that since the issuance of his communication contained in document A/53/1040, Dominica and Togo have made the necessary payments to reduce their arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of this information?

It was so decided.

Agenda items 8 and 117 *(continued)*

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Pattern of conferences

Letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/53/1043)

The Acting President: I should now like to draw the attention of representatives to document A/53/1043, which contains a letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences dated 24 August 1999 addressed to the President of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8, entitled "Adoption of the agenda and organization of work", and agenda item 117, entitled "Pattern of conferences".

In his letter, the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences informs the General Assembly that the Committee has decided to authorize the Commission on Sustainable Development, acting as the preparatory body for the twenty-second special session of the General

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Assembly on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to hold a two-day resumed session on 9 and 10 September 1999 in order to complete its work.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of the letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences contained in document A/53/1043?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda items 8 and 117.

Agenda item 17 *(continued)*

(a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Note by the Secretary-General (A/53/101/Add.1)

The Acting President: In his note, the Secretary-General informs the General Assembly that he has received notification of the resignation of Mr. Leonid Bidnyi of the Russian Federation from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and that the Assembly will therefore be required to appoint at its current session a person to fill the unexpired portion of the term of office of Mr. Bidnyi, that is, until 31 December 1999.

I should now like to recall for representatives that this sub-item was allocated to the Fifth Committee. In order to proceed expeditiously, may I take it that the Assembly agrees to consider this sub-item directly in plenary meetings?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: We shall now proceed accordingly.

In his note, the Secretary-General further informs the General Assembly that the Government of the Russian Federation has nominated Vladimir Kuznetsov to fill the vacancy.

May I therefore take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to appoint Mr. Vladimir Kuznetsov as a member of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a term of office beginning on 2 September and ending on 31 December 1999?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: May I also take it that the Assembly decides to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 17?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 118 *(continued)*

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/53/1046)

The Acting President: I should now like to recall for representatives that this item was allocated to the Fifth Committee. In order to proceed expeditiously, may I take it that the Assembly agrees to consider this item directly in plenary meetings?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: We shall now proceed accordingly.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of the letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions contained in document A/53/1046?

It was so decided.

Mr. Sareva (Finland): I am speaking on behalf of the European Union. I just want to refer to the statement made by the European Union on 28 July after the adoption of resolution 53/36 G.

The European Union stands by that statement and still expects that at its fifty-fourth session the General Assembly will have to reconsider Georgia's case at the earliest opportunity. We regard the temporary exemption as an extraordinary, ad hoc measure which establishes no new precedent.

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 118.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.